

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

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| Action: | Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed |
| Vote: | 6 - 0 - 1 |
| Yeas: | Buckley, Gilman, Read, Smith G., Tomei, Beyer |
| Nays: | 0 |
| Exc.: | Butler |
| Prepared By: | Judith Callens, Administrator |
| Meeting Dates: | 3/5, 3/12 |

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Allows retractable studded tires to be treated as traction tires under Oregon Transportation Commission rules. Defines retractable studded tires. Deletes “extending” and replaces it with “projecting” in referencing exemption for vehicles equipped with retractable studded tires when studs of metal or other material projecting beyond the tread surface of the tire are used to augment traction between November 1 and April 1. Allows tire dealer to sell tires equipped with nonlightweight studs if studs are retractable.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- New retractable stud tire technology
- Air pressure technology to extend and retract studs from inside vehicle
- Brightly colored studs will allow law enforcement to determine whether studs are in use or retracted
- Benefits to consumers by allowing one set of tires for year round use
- Benefits to roads by allowing studs to be retracted during favorable winter weather conditions

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Replaces original measure.

BACKGROUND: Under ORS 815.165(7), vehicles may use tires with metal objects (studs) between November 1 and April 1. The Oregon Department of Transportation may shorten or lengthen the period in any area of the state when the preservation of the highway surface or the safety of the traveling public so indicates. Tire dealers are further prohibited from selling studs other than lightweight studs defined by weight of stud based on tire size.

Retractable studded tires have been developed by an Oregon citizen. The technology allows studs to be extended or retracted via air pressure from a control inside the vehicle. Fleet testing of prototype tires is being conducted in Ohio beginning in March. HB 2567A allows retractable studded tires to be treated as traction tires under Oregon Transportation Commission rules when used between November 1 and April 1. The measure further allows tire dealers to sell tires equipped with nonlightweight studs if the studs are retractable.

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This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.